

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) An object striking implement having a tubular handle, an object striking portion and a resilient vibration damper having a first portion positioned in and engaged with said handle, said vibration damper having an undistorted shape and a distorted shape when said damper is positioned in said handle which differs from said undistorted shape, said damper having elongate second and third portions each having an end free to flex in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of said handle, said first portion being axially positioned between and axially spaced from said second and said third portions.

15. (Original) The implement of claim 14, wherein said first portion is cylindrical and said second and third portions are arcuate and have at least one end which contacts said handle when said implement is in a static condition.

16. (Original) The implement of claim 15, wherein said handle has a substantially constant inner diameter and second and third portions have a circular cross-section having a diameter equal to about half said inner diameter of said handle.

17. (Original) The implement of claim 16, wherein said damper comprises an elastomer or synthetic elastomer having a specific gravity of not less than 0.75 .

18. (Original) The implement of claim 16, wherein said damper comprises an elastomer or synthetic elastomer have a Shore durometer hardness in the range of from 5A through

60D.

19. (Original) The implement of claim 18, wherein said implement comprises a ball bat.

20. (Currently amended) An object striking implement having a tubular handle, an object striking portion operatively associated with said handle and a resilient vibration damper having a first portion positioned in and engaged with said handle, said vibration damper having an undistorted shape and said first portion having a distorted shape which is assumed, when said damper is [positioned in] placed into said handle, said distorted shape differing [differs] from said undistorted shape, said damper having a second portion free to flex in said handle in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of said handle, said first portion being axially spaced from said second portion.

21. (Withdrawn by examiner) The implement of claim 20, wherein said damper has an undistorted shape substantially comprising a toroid.

22. (Withdrawn by examiner) The implement of claim 21, wherein said damper comprises an elastomer or synthetic elastomer having a specific gravity of not less than 0.75.

23. (Withdrawn by examiner) The implement of claim 22, wherein said damper comprises an elastomer or synthetic elastomer having a Shore durometer hardness in the range of from 5A through 60D.

24. (Withdrawn by examiner) The implement of claim 23, wherein said implement

comprises a ball bat.

25 - 39 (Cancelled) .